



CPYRGHT

Hand Reaches Out to See If Exile Nightmare Is Over

... returning prisoner is patted and patted with loving care

'With Air Cover, We Might Have Won,' Invader Declares

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Luis Enríalzo, one of the

repatriated Cuban prisoners declared that if the anti-Castro brigade had been given air support and arms reinforcements, the invasion might not have ended in disaster.

He said the invaders had expected air cover and support from U.S. forces.

"If we had more ammo and air support, we might have been able to do something," the thin, articulate resistance fighter commented.

"We couldn't do anything but surrender. We had nothing to fight with."

One of the principal reasons given for the failure of the April, 1961, invasion

of President Kennedy to withhold air cover.

Enríalzo, 34-year-old former executive of Havana's El Encanto Department Store, was a member of the Brigade's 81st Artillery central firing control section.

He said his unit was trapped in a swamp off the Bay of Pigs for seven days.

"We had no food or water. Then one day they just came and shot us."

He said Cuban officers treated the 7,000 political prisoners at the Isle of Pines "very roughly."

"They gave us mostly yuca (cassava) and beans. They fed us at different hours to wear us down. Sometimes they gave us breakfast

at first in the morning, and sometimes at noon."

A companion, who asked to remain nameless because his parents are still in Cuba said, "You know how Communists are. They never hit you. They try to destroy you morally."

Enríalzo said the invasion prisoners wore undershorts and yellow shirts most of the time. "In the summer it was very hot, but in the winter very cold."

He reported that during the blockade crisis the guards told them, "If the Yankees put one foot on the island, we will shoot you and blow up the prison."

The guards in the prison grounds to place explosives in the event of a U.S. attack.

"They called us North American puppets and gusanos — but that was a privilege because a gusano is a worm which grows where something is rotten," he remarked.

Enríalzo's wife and three children are now living in West Palm Beach.

Another released prisoner, Roberto Garcia Serra, 23, of 3732 SW 26th Ter., said the captives frequently were punished if they did not "step fast enough."

He said the prisoners were aware they might be released soon, but did not know the date. He added they were Los Banos Sunday morning, only hours before being returned to Miami.